

# PROTECTING YOUR CHILD FROM MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE WITH MENACTRA™

## MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE

is caused by bacteria that infect the bloodstream and the linings of the brain and spinal cord, causing serious illness. Every year in the United States, 1,400 to 2,800 people get meningococcal disease, 10–14 percent die, and 11–19 percent of survivors have permanent disabilities such as mental retardation, hearing loss and loss of limbs.

The bacteria is spread in the air through coughing and/or sneezing, as well as by direct contact, such as kissing or sharing a drinking glass.

Common symptoms of meningitis include high fever, headache and stiff neck. These symptoms can develop over several hours or they may take 1 to 2 days. Other symptoms may include nausea, vomiting, discomfort looking into bright lights, confusion and sleepiness. Symptoms often begin as flu-like, but unlike the flu, meningococcal disease can kill an otherwise healthy young person in 48 hours or less.

Young children, adolescents, college freshman living in dormitories and people with certain medical conditions, such as lack of a spleen, are at the greatest risk for meningococcal disease. Introducing a recommendation for a safe and effective meningococcal vaccination for young adolescents should strengthen the importance of the adolescent visit and have a positive effect on vaccine coverage in adolescents.



## MENACTRA™—A VACCINE FOR THE PREVENTION OF MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE

Menactra™ (MCV-4), was licensed in the United States in early 2005. This new vaccine is the first meningococcal conjugate vaccine for the protection against invasive meningococcal disease in adolescents and adults age 11–55 years. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations for Menactra™ are on the reverse side.

Vaccination with Menactra™ can greatly reduce the risk of getting meningococcal disease. Up to 83% of cases in adolescents and young adults are caused by strains of bacteria that are potentially vaccine-preventable.

Menactra™ has been demonstrated to be safe.

However, as with all vaccines, some reactions (soreness, redness in the injection site for 1 to 2 days) can happen. Other side effects may include headache, fever and chills. Persons with known severe allergic reaction to any component of the vaccine should avoid vaccination.



# PROTECTING YOUR CHILD FROM MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE WITH MENACTRA™ CONTINUED

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has recommended that the following groups be immunized with Menactra™ (MCV-4):

- 11–12-year-olds at their routine pre-adolescent check-up.
- Students entering high school who have not previously been vaccinated with Menactra™.
- College freshmen living in dormitories who have not previously been vaccinated with Menactra™.

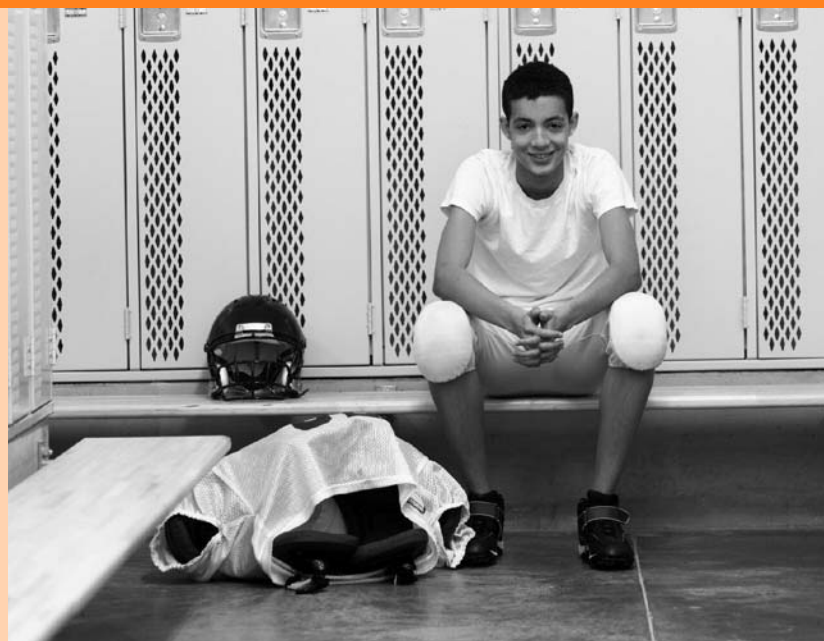
Other high risk groups include:

- U.S. military recruits.
- Anyone traveling to, or living in, a part of the world where meningococcal disease is common, such as parts of Africa.
- Anyone who is medically at risk, including those who have a damaged spleen, whose spleen has been removed or who are immunosuppressed.
- Other adolescents who want to decrease their risk of meningococcal disease (if vaccine is available).

## NEW HAMPSHIRE WILL FOLLOW THE ACIP RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROVIDE MENACTRA™ (AS SUPPLY ALLOWS) FOR THE FOLLOWING GROUPS:

- Children who are 11–12 years of age.
- Adolescents who are entering high school.
- College freshman living in dormitories, who are under 19 years of age and who have not previously been vaccinated with Menactra™.

*Please be aware the NH Immunization Program, as well as the rest of the nation, is experiencing a high level of demand for Menactra. At this time the vaccine is available in limited supplies to state immunization programs. This supply shortage is expected to continue until additional production facilities are available in 2007.*



**If you have questions or concerns about immunizations or vaccines,**  
call the public health nurses at the Immunization Program, between 8am and 4:30pm Monday–Friday:

**603-271-4482**

toll free **800-852-3345 x4482**

**NH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Division of Public Health Services  
Immunization Program**

29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301

<http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/IMMUNIZATION>

[immunization@dhhs.state.nh.us](mailto:immunization@dhhs.state.nh.us)



To learn more about meningococcal disease and the Menactra™ vaccine, go to  
**<http://www.cdc.gov/nip/ed>**

